

In the Claims:

5/15/11 1. (Amended) A method of making a composition comprising melting and blending a poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide),

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more ~~types of~~ monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone.

2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the one or more ~~types of~~ monomers comprise ~~one or more~~ vinyl monomers.

a' 3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the one or more ~~types of~~ monomers comprise one or more polar vinyl monomers.

4. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the one or more ~~types of~~ monomers comprise ~~one or more~~ polar vinyl monomers selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether methacrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) acrylates, poly(ethylene glycol) ethyl ether acrylate, poly(ethylene glycol) methacrylates with terminal hydroxyl groups, acrylic acid, maleic anhydride, itaconic acid, sodium acrylate, 3-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, acrylamide, glycidyl methacrylate, 2-bromoethyl acrylate, carboxyethyl acrylate, methacrylic acid, 2-chloroacrylonitrile, 4-chlorophenyl acrylate, 2-cyanoethyl acrylate, glycidyl acrylate, 4-nitrophenyl acrylate, pentabromophenyl acrylate, poly(propylene glycol) methacrylate, poly(propylene glycol) acrylate, 2-propene-1-sulfonic acid and its sodium salt, sulfo ethyl methacrylate, 3-sulfopropyl methacrylate, and 3-sulfopropyl acrylate.

5. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises from about 1 to about 30 weight percent, relative to the weight of the poly(ethylene oxide), of a polar vinyl monomer, a polar vinyl oligomer or a combination thereof.

5421 6. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the one or more ~~types of~~ monomers comprise ~~one or more~~ hydroxyalkyl esters of methacrylic acid.

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the one or more ~~types of~~ monomers comprise 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate.

8. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) is thermoplastic and water-soluble, and the poly(vinyl alcohol) is thermoplastic and water-soluble.

9. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 1 weight percent to about 99 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

10. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 10 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

11. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises, based on the total weight of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and the poly(vinyl alcohol), from about 10 weight percent to about 50 weight percent of the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) and from about 50 weight percent to about 90 weight percent of the poly(vinyl alcohol).

5421 12. (Amended) A method of making a composition comprising melting and blending a poly(vinyl alcohol), a poly(ethylene oxide), one or more ~~types of~~ polar vinyl monomers and an initiator, under sufficient heat and shear conditions to form a homogenous melt blend of poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide).

13. (Amended) A method of making a film comprising forming a melt blend of a poly(vinyl alcohol), a poly(ethylene oxide), one or more ~~types of~~ polar vinyl monomers and an initiator, under sufficient heat and shear conditions to form a homogenous melt blend of poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide); and

forming the melt blend into a film using extrusion or other conventional melt processing techniques.

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(mcd) 14. (Amended) A method of making a film comprising extruding poly(vinyl alcohol) and a graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) in the shape of a film, and

wherein the graft copolymer of poly(ethylene oxide) comprises a poly(ethylene oxide) backbone main chain, and one or more chains derived from one or more ~~types of~~ monomers that differ chemically or configurationally from the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone, and wherein the one or more chains are bonded at one or more points along the poly(ethylene oxide) backbone.
